

Senate File 2300 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2300
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3179)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the regulation of snowmobiles, and making
2 penalties applicable.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321G.3, Code 2014, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **321G.3 ~~Registration~~ Resident registration and user permit**
4 **required — farm exemption — penalties.**

5 1. Each snowmobile used by a resident on public land,
6 public ice, or a designated snowmobile trail of this state
7 shall be currently registered in this state pursuant to section
8 321G.4. A ~~person~~ resident shall not operate, maintain, or give
9 permission for the operation or maintenance of a snowmobile
10 on public land, public ice, or a designated snowmobile trail
11 unless the snowmobile is registered in accordance with this
12 chapter ~~or applicable federal laws or in accordance with an~~
13 ~~approved numbering system of another state and the evidence~~
14 ~~of registration is in full force and effect.~~ A The owner
15 of a snowmobile must also ~~be issued~~ obtain a user permit in
16 accordance with ~~this chapter~~ section 321G.4A.

17 2. The owner of a snowmobile that is exempt from regular
18 registration under section 321G.8, subsection 2, for which a
19 certificate of title has been issued, shall apply for a special
20 farm registration certificate which shall be issued without
21 payment of a registration fee, upon payment of a writing fee
22 as provided in section 321G.27 and an administrative fee
23 established by the commission. A registration decal shall not
24 be issued for the snowmobile and the special farm registration
25 shall not expire so long as the snowmobile remains exempt from
26 regular registration.

27 ~~2.~~ 3. A violation of subsection 1 is punishable as a
28 scheduled violation under section 805.8B, subsection 2,
29 paragraph "a". When the scheduled fine is paid, the violator
30 shall submit proof to the department that a valid registration
31 and user permit have been obtained by providing a copy of the
32 registration and user permit to the department within thirty
33 days of the date the fine is paid. A person who violates this
34 subsection is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

35 Sec. 2. Section 321G.4, subsection 4, Code 2014, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 4. Notwithstanding subsections 1 and 2, a snowmobile ~~that~~
3 ~~is more than thirty years old~~ manufactured prior to 1984 may
4 be registered as an antique snowmobile for a one-time fee
5 of twenty-five dollars, which shall exempt the owner from
6 annual registration and fee requirements for that snowmobile.
7 However, if ownership of ~~such a~~ an antique snowmobile is
8 transferred, the new owner shall register the snowmobile and
9 pay the one-time fee as required under this subsection. A
10 snowmobile may be registered under this section with only a
11 signed bill of sale as evidence of ownership.

12 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 321G.4B Nonresident requirements —
13 penalties.

14 1. A nonresident wishing to operate a snowmobile on public
15 land, public ice, or a designated snowmobile trail of this
16 state shall obtain a user permit in accordance with section
17 321G.4A. In addition to obtaining a user permit, a nonresident
18 shall display a current registration decal or other evidence
19 of registration or numbering required by the owner's state of
20 residence unless the owner resides in a state that does not
21 register or number snowmobiles.

22 2. A violation of subsection 1 is punishable as a scheduled
23 violation under section 805.8B, subsection 2, paragraph "a".
24 When the scheduled fine is paid, the violator shall submit
25 proof to the department that a user permit has been obtained
26 and provide evidence of registration or numbering as required
27 by the owner's state of residence, if applicable, to the
28 department within thirty days of the date the fine is paid.
29 A person who violates this section is guilty of a simple
30 misdemeanor.

31 Sec. 4. Section 321G.8, subsection 2, Code 2014, is amended
32 to read as follows:

33 2. Snowmobiles used exclusively as farm implements, except
34 as provided in section 321G.3, subsection 2.

35 Sec. 5. Section 321G.20, Code 2014, is amended by striking

1 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

2 321G.20 Operation by persons under sixteen.

3 A person under sixteen years of age shall not operate a
4 snowmobile on a designated snowmobile trail, public land, or
5 public ice unless the operation is under the direct supervision
6 of a parent, legal guardian, or another person of at least
7 eighteen years of age authorized by the parent or guardian,
8 who is experienced in snowmobile operation and who possesses
9 a valid driver's license, as defined in section 321.1, or an
10 education certificate issued under this chapter.

11 Sec. 6. Section 321G.24, subsection 1, Code 2014, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 1. A person ~~under eighteen~~ twelve through seventeen years
14 of age shall not operate a snowmobile on public land, public
15 ice, a designated snowmobile trail, or land purchased with
16 snowmobile registration funds in this state without obtaining a
17 ~~valid~~ an education certificate approved by the department and
18 having the certificate in the person's possession, unless the
19 person is accompanied on the same snowmobile by a responsible
20 person of at least eighteen years of age who is experienced in
21 snowmobile operation and possesses a valid driver's license, as
22 defined in section 321.1, or an education certificate issued
23 under this chapter.

24 Sec. 7. Section 805.8B, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code
25 2014, is amended to read as follows:

26 a. For registration or user permit violations under section
27 321G.3, subsection 1, or section 321G.4B, the scheduled fine
28 is fifty dollars.

EXPLANATION

30 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
31 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

32 This bill contains provisions relating to the registration
33 and operation of snowmobiles.

34 The bill separates requirements for residents from
35 requirements for nonresidents. Pursuant to current law, the

1 owner of a snowmobile who is a resident of this state is
2 required to register the snowmobile and obtain a user permit.
3 That requirement is retained in Code section 321G.3. In
4 addition, that Code section is amended to provide for the
5 issuance of a special farm registration certificate for a
6 snowmobile that is exempt from registration but is titled.
7 The applicant for the special farm registration certificate
8 is required to pay a writing fee and an administrative fee,
9 but not a registration fee. The special farm registration is
10 nonexpiring, so long as the snowmobile retains the exemption
11 from regular registration.

12 The bill moves current requirements and penalty provisions
13 for nonresidents into new Code section 321G.4B. A nonresident
14 who operates a snowmobile on public land, public ice, or a
15 designated snowmobile trail in this state must obtain a user
16 permit in this state. In addition, a nonresident must display
17 a current registration decal or other evidence of registration
18 or numbering required by the owner's state of residence, if
19 required by that state.

20 Pursuant to current law, the penalty for a violation of
21 registration or user permit requirements by a resident or a
22 nonresident is punishable by a scheduled fine of \$50. Within
23 30 days after payment of the fine, a resident or nonresident
24 must submit proof that a user permit and registration,
25 if applicable, have been obtained. A violation of that
26 requirement is a simple misdemeanor.

27 The bill provides that a snowmobile manufactured prior
28 to 1984 may be registered as an antique snowmobile for a
29 one-time fee of \$25, which provides an exemption from annual
30 registration and fee requirements for that snowmobile. Current
31 law allows the one-time fee registration for snowmobiles that
32 are more than 30 years old. If ownership of the snowmobile is
33 transferred, the new owner must register the snowmobile and pay
34 the one-time fee as required under this subsection. The bill
35 also provides that an antique snowmobile may be registered with

1 only a signed bill of sale as evidence of ownership.

2 Currently, a person under 12 years of age is not permitted
3 to operate a snowmobile on a designated snowmobile trail,
4 public land, or public ice unless accompanied on the same
5 snowmobile by a responsible person who is at least 18 years of
6 age, is experienced in snowmobile operation, and possesses a
7 valid driver's license or a snowmobile education certificate.
8 A person age 12 through 15 must have a snowmobile education
9 certificate and be under the direct supervision of a parent,
10 guardian, or another adult authorized by the parent or guardian
11 who is experienced in snowmobile operation and possesses a
12 valid driver's license or a snowmobile education certificate.
13 The bill eliminates the requirement that a person under 12
14 years of age be accompanied on the same snowmobile, and amends
15 the direct supervision requirement to apply to every person
16 under 16 years of age.

17 Current law prohibits a person under 18 years of age but
18 over the age of 15 from operating a snowmobile on or across a
19 public highway without a snowmobile education certificate in
20 the person's possession. That provision is stricken, but the
21 bill retains the current requirement that every person age 12
22 through 17 have an education certificate in order to operate a
23 snowmobile on a designated trail, public land, or public ice
24 unless the person is accompanied on the same snowmobile by a
25 responsible person at least 18 years of age who is experienced
26 in snowmobile operation and possesses a valid driver's license
27 or a snowmobile education certificate.

28 The bill makes a conforming amendment to Code section 805.8B
29 to reflect the new location of the penalty provision for
30 nonresidents.